



United States Senate

July 2, 2020

The Honorable Gavin Newsom
California State Capitol
1303 10th Street, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Newsom,

I write to express my concern regarding the increased gas withdrawals that were made this winter from the Aliso Canyon natural gas storage facility and the slow pace at which the California Public Utilities Commission is moving to develop permanent shut-down plans. It has been shown that the Aliso Canyon facility poses an unacceptable health and safety risk to nearby residents, and I urge you to take whatever measures are necessary to limit withdrawals and permanently close the site.

This winter, Southern California Gas withdrew 20 billion cubic feet of gas from Aliso Canyon – 6 billion cubic feet more than the previous winter. With increased use of the facility comes a greater likelihood of technical and human failures. These failures pose an immediate danger of additional leaks and threaten the safety of a community that has already been upended by prior leaks.

I fully support your direction to the California Public Utilities Commission to develop plans to permanently close the facility on a faster timeline than had been proposed by Governor Brown. Yet, I share the concerns of many in the community that the Commission is not moving aggressively enough to shut the facility down. Any further delay in doing so puts residents of Porter Ranch at risk and is inconsistent with California's climate change goals.

I urge you to redouble your administration's efforts to permanently close the Aliso Canyon facility as soon as possible. Additionally, I ask that you direct state regulatory agencies, including the CA Public Utilities Commission, to decrease use of the Aliso Canyon gas storage facility to ensure the safety of Los Angeles County residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dianne Feinstein".

Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

DF/js

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0504

<http://feinstein.senate.gov>